

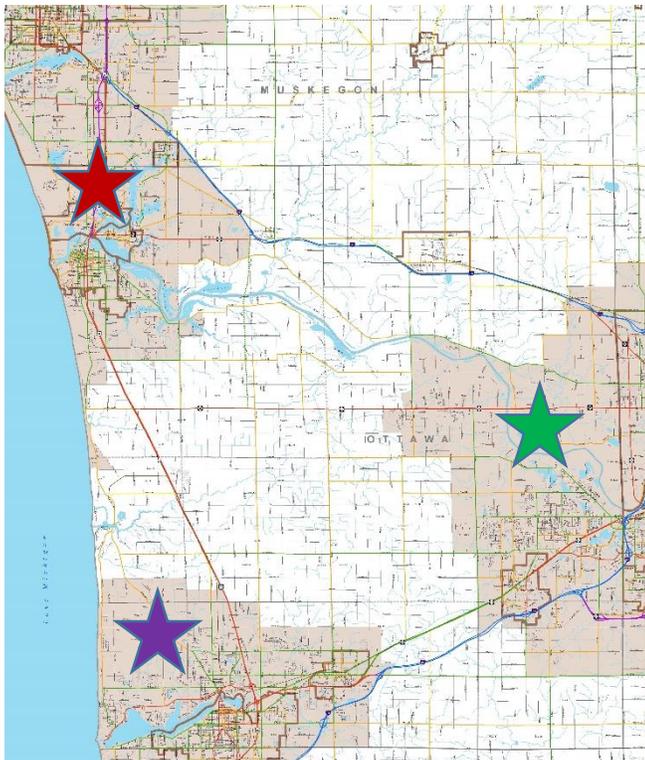


The Road Newsletter, Volume 6, Issue 6

June 2016

TIPs for the Road

A Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a multi-year financial program that describes the schedule for obligating federal funds for state and local projects. The TIP contains funding allocations for all modes of transportation including highways, transit, and non-motorized facilities. The TIP planning process includes an analysis of alternatives to meet projected future transportation demands, and provides a safe and efficient transportation system that allows for mobility while not creating adverse impacts to the environment. The responsibility for transportation planning lies with designated Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO).



Ottawa County is unique as there is a MPO for each of the three county's urbanized areas. Each MPO develops a TIP describing how revenues will be invested to support the area's transportation system.

-  West Michigan Regional Shoreline Development Commission
www.wmsrdc.org
-  Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
www.gvmc.org
-  Macatawa Area Coordinating Council
www.the-macc.org

The above MPOs are in the final stages of completing a TIP for fiscal years 2017 to 2020. Throughout the process, the public has been invited to participate in the development of the TIP. More information about the TIP, including prioritized project lists for MDOT, local road agencies, and transit authorities can be found at each of the respective MPO websites.

2016 Federal Aid Projects

In accordance with the approved 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program, bids for all of the Road Commission projects receiving federal aid in 2016 have been obtained.

48th Avenue: Pierce Street to M-45 – Reconstruct 1 mile to a 4-lane narrow median boulevard.
Contractor: Schippers Excavating Inc. Low Bid: \$3,352,173 Federal Aid: \$2,115,000
Start: May Anticipated Completion: September 30, 2016

136th Avenue: Riley Street to Quincy Street – Reconstruct 1 mile to a 3 lanes wide with curb and gutter.
Contractor: Milbocker & Sons Inc. Low Bid: \$2,908,260 Federal Aid: \$912,000
Start: May Anticipated Completion: October 30, 2016

Adams Street: 24th Avenue to Kenowa Avenue – Resurface 3 miles with 3 foot paved shoulders.
Contractor: Reith-Riley Construction Co., Inc. Low Bid: \$889,608 Federal Aid: \$548,000
Start: June Anticipated Completion: July 29, 2016

Port Sheldon Street: US-31 to 120th Avenue – Resurface 2.18 miles.
Contractor: Reith-Riley Construction Co., Inc. Low Bid: \$559,243 Federal Aid: \$449,555
Start: June Anticipated Completion: July 29, 2016

Counting Cars

Each year, the Road Commission takes hundreds of traffic counts on various county roads. Traffic counts assist the Road Commission in monitoring the county road network and are useful in many engineering applications. Typical traffic counts are taken over a 24-hour period and take into account both directions of travel.

By monitoring the amount of traffic utilizing the county road system, the Road Commission is better able to determine areas of growth and plan transportation projects that best serve the motoring public. In addition, traffic counts are an essential element of many design projects and traffic engineering studies, such as those for determining traffic signals and multi-way stops.

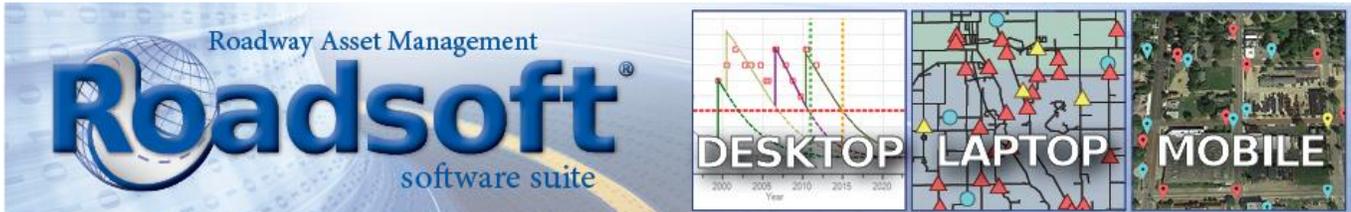


Traffic counts are taken by placing a rubber hose across the road. When a vehicle crosses the hose, an air pulse is sent to an automatic traffic recorder. Sometimes dual rubber hoses are used to determine vehicle classification (such as commercial vehicles) and to measure the speed of vehicles.

The Road Commission stores all available traffic counts in a database and generates a report for public information. The data is summarized to show the Average Daily Traffic (ADT- the average number of vehicles using a roadway in one day.) This report is available on our website at www.ottawacorc.com.

Road Commission to Pilot Software

Almost all county road agencies use an asset management system to prioritize road improvements based on available financial resources. A computer program called *Roadsoft* is a software package that is utilized to compile asset management data for public road networks in Michigan. This software is a graphically designed, integrated roadway management system developed for engineers and managers to use in the analysis and reporting of roadway inventory, safety, and conditional data.



Michigan Technological University developed *Roadsoft* and is looking to expand the program to provide asset management capabilities for storm water systems. Storm water management is an integral part of maintaining a road. In many cases, the upkeep and condition of the storm sewer system dictates the types of road improvements that can and should be carried out.

The Road Commission has been asked to be part of a focus group to help develop the storm sewer management module for *Roadsoft*. The goal of the software, besides providing condition data, is to ensure long term management of stormwater runoff after construction is completed, prevent pollution and maintain good housekeeping records. Over the next two years, the Road Commission will identify and record the type and location of structural storm water controls throughout the county. After this data is gathered, the planning and design of a new *Roadsoft* module will be completed.

The goal of the software is to:

- track inspections and condition of stormwater management facilities
- track maintenance and create maintenance schedules
- provide annual reporting information for compliance with the Clean Water Act

HB 5247 Gives Green Light



Under the Michigan Vehicle Code, a person is prohibited from operating a commercial snow removal vehicle to remove snow or ice on a public street, highway, or in a parking lot accessible for use by the public, unless the vehicle is operated with at least one flashing, rotating or oscillating **yellow or amber** light clearly visible from within 500 feet. Due to its superior visibility, House Bill 5247 would amend the Code to allow **green** lights to this provision for road agencies for winter and non-winter operations.

The bill was unanimously approved by the Senate Transportation Committee and has moved to the Senate floor for further consideration.

Important Dates

Thursday – June 9, 2016 | 9AM | Board Meeting

Thursday – June 23, 2016 | 9AM | Board Meeting



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PO Box 739
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417
616-842-5400
Office Hours: Monday-Friday; 7:30AM-4PM



STAY CONNECTED. SUBSCRIBE:

The Ottawa County Road Commissioners: Tom Bird | Tom Elhart | Betty Gajewski | Tim Grifhorst | Jim Miedema
Managing Director: Brett Laughlin

Who manages the roads and how are they funded? The Ottawa County Road Commission manages the roads--not the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners or County staff. The Ottawa County Road Commission is primarily funded by fuel taxes and vehicle registrations. Concerns about roads should be directed to the Ottawa County Road Commission. Questions? [Contact Us](#)

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